The Prologue.

THE doubtfull Title (Gentlemen) prefixt
Vpon the Argument we haue in hand,
May breed ſuſpence, and wrongfully diſturbe
The peacefull quiet of your ſetled thoughts:
To ſtop which ſcruple, let this breefe ſuffice.
It is no pamper'd Glutton we preſent,
Nor aged Councellour to youthfull ſinne;
But one, whoſe vertue ſhone aboue the reſt,
A valiant Martyr, and a vertuous Peere,
In whoſe true faith and loyalty expreſt
Vnto his Soueraigne, and his Countries weale:
We ſtriue to pay that tribute of our loue
Your fauours merit: Let faire Truth be grac'd,
Since forg'd inuention former time defac'd.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Sir John Old-Castle* (STC 18796) LONDON, 1600 THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY (Mal. 222[4]) Octavo